

Changes at DBMS

Ted Lawson takes over helm

By Mary McKenzie
Clipper Reporter

This summer, Duxbury Bay Maritime School executive director Chuck Leonard, who has led the school for the past nine years, decided to step down from his post to work on other projects for the school. Duxbury native, veteran sailor and teacher Ted Lawson has been appointed the new executive director, assuming the day-to-day responsibilities of DBMS.

Leonard's new role is DBMS president. He will work on the development and implementation of a four-year strategic plan.

Lawson is stepping into a post first taken on by his father, Ned Lawson, who was executive director from the school's inception in 1998 until he resigned in 2007. The younger Lawson, who has taught science for over ten years – first in Portland, ME and then in Delhi, India for the past three years – also has a master's degree in nonprofit management and leadership.

"A number of years ago I began to envision a career shift out of the classroom and into nonprofit work," Lawson said. "I have always been the most interested in experiential, outdoor learning. I decided to return to school for a master's degree in nonprofit management and leadership to help facilitate my career shift."

Asked what inspired him to take on the new position, Lawson responded, "my love for Duxbury Bay, sailing, experiential learning and my belief in the mission of the school. Ever since I can remember, Duxbury Bay has been a central part of my life. I have found so many ways to enjoy the bay, including hunting, fishing, water skiing, motor boating, clamming, sailing and just messing around in boats."

He recalls two adventures that all started with sailing on the bay.

"First, in 2004, with three friends we sailed to Panama and back, visiting ten countries," Lawson remembered. "And more recently, in 2014, with my wife, Amie, and two daughters, Lucy and Scout, we sailed from the bay down to the Bahamas for a ten-month family adventure. These trips have been powerful reminders for me of the positive influence that growing up sailing on Duxbury Bay has had on my life."

The new DBMS executive director has a history with the school that goes back to 1998. That first summer, Lawson switched from a job as sailing instructor at Duxbury Yacht Club to the same role at DBMS. In 2003, Lawson returned to DBMS to work in the Maritime Adventures Program, an outreach effort with Camp Wing.



Ted Lawson (left) is the new executive director of the Duxbury Bay Maritime School while former director Chuck Leonard will serve as DBMS president. Photo courtesy DBMS

He now has kids taking classes at DBMS, marking the third generation of his family to be active at the school.

Lawson is embracing this new role in his hometown.

“Every day I am working to connect people to Duxbury Bay,” he said. “I know how much I have personally gained from spending time out on the water, and I couldn’t be happier being charged with bringing this experience to others.”